



**Pledge of Confidentiality**  
 Census Bureau employees are explicitly prohibited by Title 13 of the U.S. Code from revealing confidential census information that would identify any individual, household, or establishment. Data collected may be used only for statistical purposes. Title 13, as amended, provides a fine of up to \$250,000 or up to 5 years in jail, or both, for any Census Bureau employee who violates this statute. All employees are sworn to secrecy at the time they are hired, and they are reminded of this pledge every year. The Census Bureau is committed to producing quality statistical data, while upholding its mandate to safeguard privacy and protect confidentiality of all individuals who share their information with us.

## The U.S. Census Bureau: At Work for You

The U.S. Census Bureau does more than just count the number of people in the country once every 10 years. About 10,000 Census Bureau employees gather, analyze, and regularly deliver helpful information on hundreds of topics about the nation's people and its economy. The readiness of the Census Bureau staff to innovate continually improves the quality of the data we deliver.

### Why Is the Census of Population and Housing Important?

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution places the decennial census at the core of our democratic system of governance. It mandates a count of the nation's populace every 10 years. The decennial census provides information that is the cornerstone of knowledge about the American people. It is the basis for virtually all demographic information used by educators, policymakers, and community leaders.

Information collected by the Census Bureau directly affects decisions made on matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, veterans' services, public health care, rural development, the environment, transportation, and housing.

- Many federal programs are statutorily required to use information from censuses to develop, evaluate, and implement their programs.
- Federal, state, and county governments use Census Bureau information to guide the annual distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in critical services.
- Congressional seats are reapportioned and legislative districts are drawn based on decennial census data.
- Statistics from the Census Bureau also are used to monitor and enforce compliance with civil rights statutes, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and employment, housing, lending, and education antidiscrimination laws.

*The American Community Survey (ACS) is part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program. It is a survey sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis and will replace the census long form beginning in 2010. Since the ACS is conducted every year rather than once every 10 years, it will provide more current data throughout the decade.*

### What Is the Economic Census and Why Is It Important?

The Census Bureau conducts an economic census every 5 years, in years ending in "2" and "7." The economic census collects and produces useful business statistics and publishes summary information about each industry and geographic area. The economic census is important because it produces complete "snapshots" of the economy and widely used business statistics. Census Bureau statistics feature economy-wide coverage, exceptional accuracy, encyclopedic detail, and historic comparability. They are used in private business plans, public policy development, and statistical program quality control. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan says, "The economic census is indispensable to understanding America's economy."

### What Other Information Does the Census Bureau Collect?

Besides the decennial census and the economic census, the Census Bureau conducts nearly 100 other demographic and economic surveys and censuses every year. Information is obtained monthly, quarterly, or annually and released accordingly.



*"In 2002, there were 37.4 million Latinos in the United States, representing 13.3 percent of the total population. Among the Hispanic population, two-thirds (66.9 percent) were of Mexican origin, 14.3 percent were Central and South American, 8.6 percent were Puerto Rican, 3.7 percent were Cuban, and the remaining 6.5 percent were of other Hispanic origins." (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2002)*

- Demographic surveys include:
- American Housing Survey (AHS)
  - Current Population Survey (CPS)
  - National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
  - Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
  - Consumer Expenditure Quarterly Interview Survey (CES)
  - Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey (CED)
  - National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- The Census Bureau conducts many surveys for other government agencies and local areas on a cost-reimbursable basis. Survey sponsors include:
- Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
  - Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

The data gathered from economic surveys are used as major economic indicators by the White House and the Federal Reserve Board. Economic surveys include:

- Annual Retail Trade Survey
- Annual Survey of Manufactures
- Commodity Flow Survey
- Education Finance Survey
- Monthly U.S. Imports History and U.S. Exports History
- Census of Governments



*The nation's international deficit in goods and services decreased to \$39.5 billion in June, from \$41.5 billion (revised) in May, as exports increased and imports were virtually unchanged. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, FT-900, June 2003)*



### Who Uses Census Bureau Data?

Data from censuses and surveys are used to make short- and long-range decisions by government officials at all levels, business and industry executives, educators, librarians, transportation planners, market researchers, real estate developers, think tanks, health and emergency service providers, and many others.

### What Other Programs, Products, and Services Are Offered by the Census Bureau?

- "Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing," or TIGER®, is the name of the system and digital database developed at the Census Bureau to support mapping needs.

It defines the location and relationship of streets, rivers, railroads, and other features to each other and to the numerous geographic entities for which the Census Bureau tabulates data from its censuses and surveys, and automates mapping and related geographic activities. For more information about TIGER® or the TIGER/Line® files, visit <[www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/overview.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/overview.html)>.

- High-quality reference and thematic maps and other cartographic products. For a complete listing and description of these maps and other geographic products, visit <[www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html)>.

- *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*, the Census Bureau's flagship publication, has been published every year since 1878, and is available online, in print, and on CD-ROM. It provides valuable statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States. Also included are data and nearly 1,400 tables from many statistical publications, both government and private. Learn more about the Statistical Abstract of the United States at <[www.census.gov/statab/www/](http://www.census.gov/statab/www/)>.

- The International Data Base, available on the Census Bureau Web site, provides population-related data for countries and areas around the world. Visit <[www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html](http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html)>.

### How Can I Obtain Census Bureau Data?

Accessing Census Bureau data is free and easy. Most Census Bureau statistical data are housed at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. A specially designed database called American FactFinder® is located on the Census Bureau Web site and provides quick and easy access to major demographic and economic data files. If you need local assistance obtaining Census Bureau data, you may contact one of our 12 regional offices. See back page for contact information. Printed maps, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and on-demand printed reports are available at nominal prices from the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).



**Bookmark us:  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)**

### Need More Information?

- Visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)> or call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).
- Call or visit a Census Bureau regional office. For the address and phone numbers of one of the 12 regional offices nearest you, visit <[www.census.gov/field/www/](http://www.census.gov/field/www/)>.
- Visit your local library. Many major university and public libraries participate in the Federal Depository Library Program <[www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html)> and receive copies of Census Bureau reports and discs.
- Call or visit one of 1,800 state and local planning groups, libraries, chambers of commerce, and others that participate in the Census Bureau State Data Center and Census Information Center program. For a complete list see <[www.census.gov/sdc/www/datactr.html](http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/datactr.html)>.

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU